

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 122259

R 101756Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5762

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 00818

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF EG FR

SUBJECT: DE LIPKOWSKI VIEWS FOLLOWING CAIRO VISIT

REF: BEIRUT 64

1. SUMMARY: DE LIPKOWSKI, FRENCH SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN MIDDLE EAST, BELIEVES LIMITED TIME REMAINS FOR ARRANGING FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS IN SINAI AND THAT SADAT IN SECRET DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH RABIN. END SUMMARY.

2. JEAN DE LIPKOWSKI, FRENCH SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ON EVE HIS DEPARTURE FOR TEHRAN DINED WITH DCM JANUARY 9 AND GAVE HIS OBSERVATIONS OF RECENT MIDDLE EAST TRAVELS, SUPPLEMENTING THOSE REPORTED REFTEL BY AMBASSADOR GODLEY. DE LIPKOWSKI DISCUSSED AT LENGTH HIS RECENT VISIT TO CAIRO AND HIS MEETINGS WITH HIS OLD FRIEND SADAT. HE SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY OUTWARD EVIDENCES OF POVERTY AND HUMAN MISERY IN CAIRO WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO CRUSHING BURDEN
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DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. HE CAME AWAY CONVINCED THAT

SADAT HAD FULLY CAST HIS LOT WITH SECRETARY AND WAS COUNTING ON HIS ABILITY ACHIEVE FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT IN SINAI RESULTING IN RETURN OF "THE PASSES AND THE OIL WELLS." HE REPEATEDLY COMMENTED ON URGENCY OF ACHIEVING SUCH AN AGREEMENT. WHEN PRESSED REGARDING HOW MUCH TIME AVAILABLE HE SPOKE OF VERY FEW MONTHS AND IMPLIED MAXIMUM OF ABOUT SIX.

3. BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE WITH ARAB CHARACTER, DE LIPKOWSKI STRESSED VOLATILITY OF ARABS AND PREDICTED THAT IN ABSENCE FURTHER AGREEMENT IN SINAI WE WOULD BE ASTONISHED AT RAPIDITY WITH WHICH ARABS WOULD TURN AWAY FROM U.S. TOWARDS SOVIETS. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, IT WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEPARTURE FAHMY.

4. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH SADAT DE LIPKOWSKI WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO HEAR SADAT REFER IN LAUDATORY TERMS TO RABIN AS A MODERATE. HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED SADAT WAS CONDUCTING SECRET NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTLY WITH RABIN.

5. DE LIPKOWSKI DESCRIBED SOVIET STRATEGY VISA--A-VIS EGYPT AT PRESENT AS BRINGING PRESSURE FROM THE REAR, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY MASSIVE RECENT SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES TO LIBYA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 00818

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6. IN REFERRING TO HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR GODLEY HE WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IN LEBANON, A SITUATION AND A COUNTRY WITH WHICH HE HAD LONG PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. HE SAID THE AMBASSADOR HAD PRECISELY AND ACCURATELY ANALYZED THE POLITICAL FORCES AT WORK IN THE COUNTRY AND WAS IN CONTACT WITH JUST THE RIGHT PEOPLE. HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR GODLEY WAS WORKING CLOSELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH HIS FRENCH COLLEAGUE.

7. COMMENT: DE LIPKOWSKI, WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN KEY ROLE BY PRESIDENT GISCARD IN CONDUCT FRENCH MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS BECAUSE OF LONG ASSOCIATIONS IN ARAB WORLD, SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT REMAINING OPPORTUNITY ACHIEVE PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST MIGHT BE LOST. IN THIS REGARD HE COMMENTED ON EXTENT TO WHICH EUPHORIC EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S. IN 1974 HAD ALREADY SHARPLY DETERIORATED. HE EXPECTS PLAY LARGER GOVERNMENTAL ROLE UNDER GISCARD IN FUTURE, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING HIS RECENT DESIGNATION BY
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PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AS FOREIGN POLICY SPECIALIST
OF THE UDR PARTY.
RUSH

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